



ITW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Naoto NAKAMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2893

Application No.: 10/528,069

Examiner: H. TRINH

Filed: July 10, 2005

Docket No.: 122733

For: THERMAL TREATMENT APPARATUS, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SUBSTRATE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 24, 2008 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement,
Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-14.

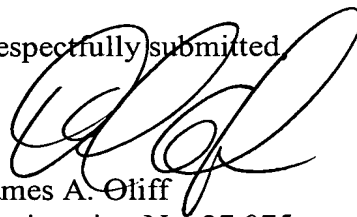
Applicants provisionally elect Species V, Figure 10. Claims 5-14 read on the elected Species. Claim 1 is generic to all species. These elections are made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims or species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should

apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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